

775 jealous persons or criminals, were thought to become revengeful demons (kodukäija), the term being a translation of the German Heimgänger.

• [153] These demons were said to be the cause of sickness and other trouble. Nightmares and plagues were believed to be caused by spirits [177] or by the dead, and death appeared under Chris- [76] tian-German influence personified as a man with a scythe, or who was called Liiva Annus 'Sand Annus.'

754 According to the prominent Estonian folklor-
538 ist, Dr. Oskar Loorits, the least original mythological figure in Estonia is the sorcerer or magician (Estonian nõid, Finnish noita), who can be either man or woman. The ancient nõid was a wise man (tark), a kind of priest and mediator between the spirits, the dead, and the living. He gave good advice to those in trouble and healed

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the Ignorance and Carelessness of the Country Clergy; but since by the Care of the *Swedish* Kings, a Yearly Synod has been Convocated at *Rival*, for the regulation of Church-Affairs, and Examination of the Clergy-Men; it has been found by experience, that besides their unsuitness for Devotion, by reason of the constant Fatigues they are forced to undergo, their ancient Idolatry and Superstition, has taken so deep root among them, as not to be quite extirpated by the Art of Man; for such is their Inclination for Sorcery, that they are of Opinion their Cattel cannot thrive without it; for which reason, Fathers and Mothers, among these Peasants, are as careful to instruct their Children in it, as we do in the Cathedrism and other good Morals. To elude the Effects of Charms, they never kill a Beast, or make a Slaughter, but they throw some part away, upon which the effect of the Charm is to fall; nay, they are so far entangled in Superstition, that if within a few Weeks after Baptism, the Child happen to fall ill, or pine away, they Re-baptize it, alledging, that the first Name was not agreeable to its Constitution, tho' very severe Laws have been enacted against it. The worst of all is, that they are so Tenacious of these Superstitions, and so obstinate in the perseverance of their ancient Customs, that nothing is able to divert them from it. Of this there have been several Instances of late Years; for these Peasants, as I told you before, being not permitted to purchase any Lands; but obliged to live upon the Allotments granted to them by their Lords, for the bare sustenance of their Families, will sometimes cut or burn down some Woods, and Manure the Ground, which produces good Wheat; this they hide for Sale; but if they happen to be catch'd, they are strip'd to the middle, and ty'd to a Post, where they are soundly whipt with a Switch, till the Blood issues forth on all Sides; I say, there are many Instances of such among the *Livonian* Peasants, who rather than redeem this Chastisement by a small pecuniary Mulct of about 18 or 16 Pence, have chosen to submit readily to the Punishment, alledging, that rather than introduce any Novelty of this Kind, they would suffer the same Chastisement their Fore-fathers used to do before them.